ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW!

MARVEL
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THE WINTER SOLDIER
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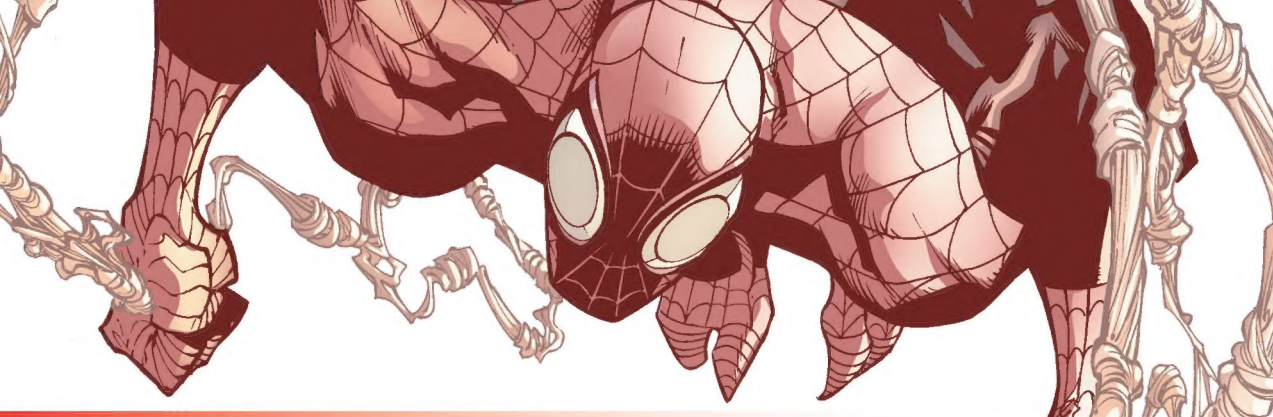
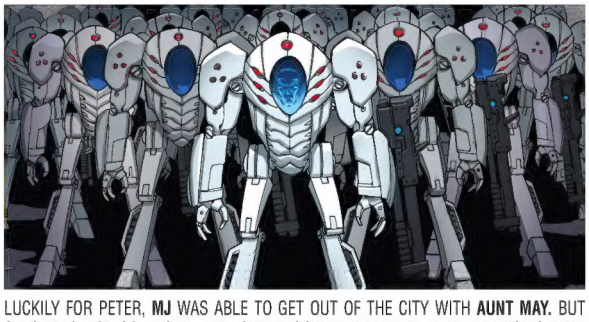


THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN

IN A LAST-DITCH EFFORT TO SAVE HIMSELF FROM DEATH, **OTTO OCTAVIUS** SWAPPED MINDS WITH SPIDER-MAN, LEAVING **PETER PARKER** TO DIE IN HIS PLACE. TAKING ON PETER'S SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY, OTTO CARRIED ON HIS MISSION AS THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN.

BUT LITTLE DOES OTTO KNOW… PART OF PETER PARKER LIVES ON AS A MEMORY FRAGMENT DEEP INSIDE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN'S PSYCHE. RECENTLY, IN ORDER TO AVOID OCK DETECTING HIM, PETER HID AWAY INSIDE OTTO OCTAVIUS' MEMORIES…BUT QUICKLY BECAME TRAPPED THERE, WITH THE REMAINING SHREDS OF HIS IDENTITY THREATENING TO MELT AWAY INSIDE OF OTTO'S!

ALL THE WHILE, THE **GREEN GOBLIN** WAS AMASSING A GOBLIN ARMY. HE DID THIS SECRETLY BY HACKING OTTO'S SPIDER-BOTS TO TURN A BLIND EYE TO ANY GREEN GOBLIN MASKS OR INSIGNIA. NOW, THE GREEN GOBLIN IS WAGING A CITY-WIDE WAR ON SPIDER-MAN, HAVING ALREADY DESTROYED **SPIDER-ISLAND** AND TAKEN **ANNA MARIA** HOSTAGE.



LUCKILY FOR PETER, **MJ** WAS ABLE TO GET OUT OF THE CITY WITH **AUNT MAY.** BUT OTTO WAS NOT SO LUCKY…THE GREEN GOBLIN REVEALED THAT HE KNOWS THAT THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN IS REALLY OTTO OCTAVIUS! TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, **MAYOR JAMESON** IS PREPARING TO UNLEASH A FLEET OF **"GOBLIN SLAYERS"** TO CAPTURE SPIDER-MAN, WHO HE BELIEVES TO BE WORKING WITH THE GREEN GOBLIN.

DAN SLOTT PLOT

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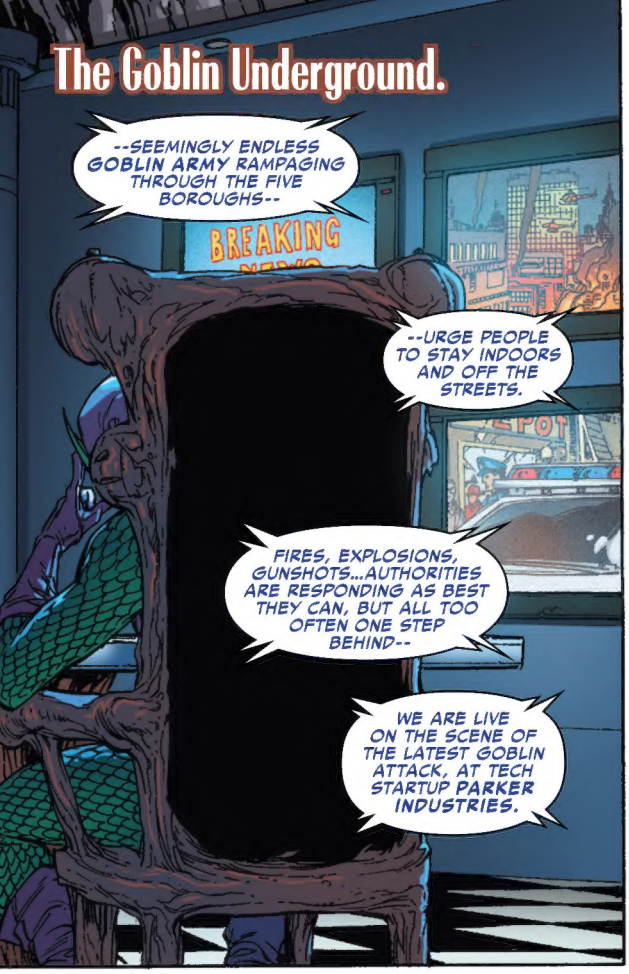
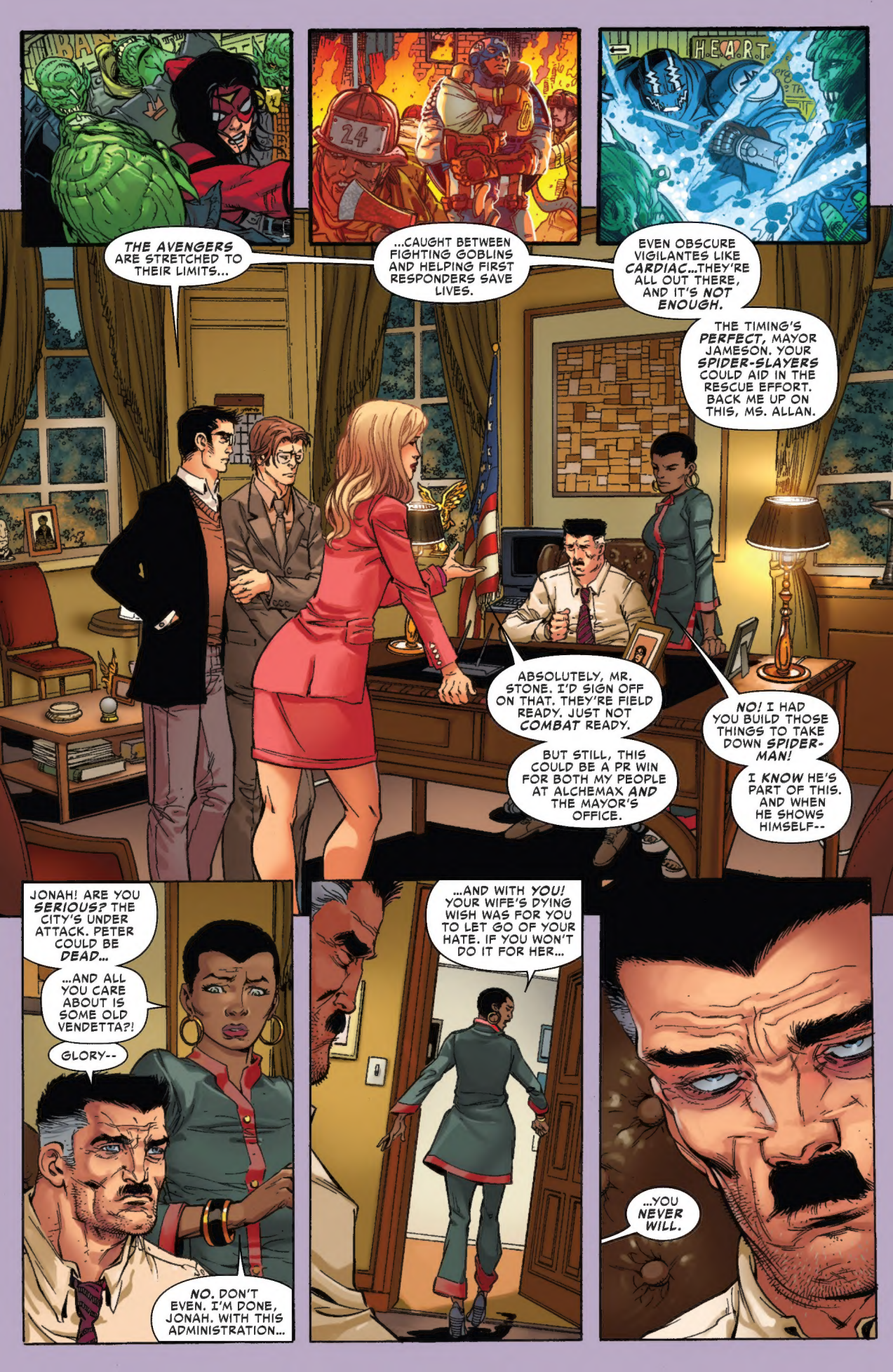

The Goblin Underground.
--SEEMINGLY ENDLESS GOBLIN ARMY RAMPAGING THROUGH THE FIVE BOROUGHS--
BREAKING
--URGE PEOPLE TO STAY INDOORS AND OFF THE STREETS.
FIRES, EXPLOSIONS, GUNSHOTS...AUTHORITIES ARE RESPONDING AS BEST THEY CAN, BUT ALL TOO OFTEN ONE STEP BEHIND--
WE ARE LIVE ON THE SCENE OF THE LATEST GOBLIN ATTACK, AT TECH STARTUP PARKER INDUSTRIES.

SUCCESS, MY LORD! THIS SQUIRMING LITTLE BUNDLE IS PARKER'S GIRLFRIEND, ANNA MARIA--
MENACE, SHUSH. THIS IS JUST GETTING INTERESTING.

I'M WITH CO-CEO SAJANI JAFFREY. WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
A GOBLIN...SOME WOMAN CALLING HERSELF MONSTER... ATTACKED US! SAID IT WAS BECAUSE OF OUR TIES WITH SPIDER-MAN.
IT WAS HORRIBLE. SHE THREW BOMBS... OUR ROOF COLLAPSED ON HER AND MY COLLEAGUE, PETER PARKER. EMERGENCY SERVICES DON'T KNOW WHEN THEY CAN GET HERE.
I-I WANT TO BE HOPEFUL, BUT I DON'T SEE HOW ANYBODY COULD BE ALIVE IN THAT...
GOBLIN NATION!

NO! CARLIE'S TOUGH, SHE--SHE MIGHT'VE--
FEH. I'LL MAKE YOU A NEW SISTER. GOBLIN SERUM'S THICKER THAN BLOOD.
THE REAL TRAGEDY IS SUCH A BORING DEATH FOR SPIDER-MAN'S BEST FRIEND.
MMPH!
I'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE HE CARES ABOUT...


THE AVENGERS ARE STRETCHED TO THEIR LIMITS...
...CAUGHT BETWEEN FIGHTING GOBLINS AND HELPING FIRST RESPONDERS SAVE LIVES.
EVEN OBSCURE VIGILANTES LIKE CARDIAC...THEY'RE ALL OUT THERE, AND IT'S NOT ENOUGH.
H.E.A.R.T.
THE TIMING'S PERFECT, MAYOR JAMESON. YOUR SPIDER-SLAYERS COULD AID IN THE RESCUE EFFORT. BACK ME UP ON THIS, MS. ALLAN.
ABSOLUTELY, MR. STONE. I'D SIGN OFF ON THAT. THEY'RE FIELD READY. JUST NOT COMBAT READY.
BUT STILL, THIS COULD BE A PR WIN FOR BOTH MY PEOPLE AT ALCHEMAX AND THE MAYOR'S OFFICE.
NO! I HAD YOU BUILD THOSE THINGS TO TAKE DOWN SPIDER-MAN!
I KNOW HE'S PART OF THIS. AND WHEN HE SHOWS HIMSELF--
JONAH! ARE YOU SERIOUS? THE CITY'S UNDER ATTACK. PETER COULD BE DEAD...
...AND ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS SOME OLD VENDETTA?!
GLORY--
NO. DON'T EVEN. I'M DONE, JONAH. WITH THIS ADMINISTRATION...
...AND WITH YOU! YOUR WIFE'S DYING WISH WAS FOR YOU TO LET GO OF YOUR HATE. IF YOU WON'T DO IT FOR HER...
...YOU NEVER WILL.

Outside Mystic, Connecticut.
OH, GOD, I CAN'T GET THROUGH TO PETER! THE NEWS MADE IT SOUND LIKE HE-- HE'S--
EASY, MAY.
DAMN IT, JONAH'S LINES GO STRAIGHT TO VOICEMAIL. WHAT GOOD IS BEING THE MAYOR'S FATHER...
...IF YOU CAN'T GET HIM ON THE PHONE?
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, MR. JAMESON. I'M A FIREFIGHTER, I SHOULD BE THERE HELPING--
97
NEW YORK
007W381
THE EMPIRE STATE
SORRY, OLLIE. AND MAY, JAY...YOU KNOW WE HAD TO GET AWAY.
PETER'S CLOSE TO SPIDER-MAN, WHICH MEANS WE'RE ALL JUST ONE OR TWO STEPS REMOVED...
...AND OUR LIVES CAN BE TURNED UPSIDE-DOWN ANY MINUTE.
BOOP-BOOP
PETER? THE RADIO SAID--
ALREADY DONE, AND MAY AND JAY ARE WITH ME. BUT YOUR AUNT'S FREAKING OUT. YOU HAVE TO--
A RUSE TO BUY TIME, MARY JANE. EVERYONE WHO KNOWS ME IS IN DANGER. GET OUT OF--
DEAL WITH IT, WATSON! I'VE GOT IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO.
YEAH. YOU'VE MADE IT REAL CLEAR WHAT YOU CONSIDER IMPORTANT... AND WHAT YOU DON'T.
I'M NOT YOUR SIDEKICK OR ALIBI. WE'RE NOT TOGETHER ANYMORE. I DIDN'T ASK FOR ANY OF-- HELLO?
HH. HE NEVER COULD DEAL WITH A WOMAN RAISING HER VOICE...

Parker Industries.
FEAAGGHH!
HURRY! D-DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN S-S-STAY IN CONTROL! IT'S LIKE A FIRE IN MY BRAIN!
THE GOBLIN SERUM IS COMPLEX. REVERSING ITS EFFECTS, MORE SO.
TAKE YOUR TIME. THESE STRAPS ARE THE ONES YOU USED TO HOLD VENOM, AND THAT WORKED OUT SO WELL...
OH, SPIDER-MAN...
NOT. HELPING.
UNDOING THE EFFECTS OF THE GOBLIN FORMULA IS POSSIBLE. BUT UNDOING THEM SO THE SUBJECT SURVIVES...
YOUR ATTITUDE IS NOT HELPING, SAJANI.
WHO IS THIS? HOW DID YOU GET THIS NUMBER?
PLEASE. IT'S ME. AND I'VE FIGURED OUT EVERY SINGLE LITTLE THING ABOUT YOU, OCTAVIUS.
ME? YOU JUST BLEW UP HALF OUR BARELY INSURED BUILDING TO FAKE YOUR DEATH! YOU'VE GOT GOBLINS, COPS AND VIGILANTES AFTER YOU! HOW DOES THAT HELP US?
WELL, EVERYTHING BUT WHOSE PRETTY LITTLE HEAD YOUR MIND'S IN NOW.
SO PUT ON YOUR PARTY SUIT, SPIDER-MAN. AND DON'T FORGET THOSE FANCY GOGGLES.
I HAVE SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL TO SHOW YOU.

SAJANI, I HAVE TO GO CONTACT SPIDER-MAN. IT'S... IMPORTANT.
WAIT, WHAT? MORE IMPORTANT THAN DE-GOBLINIZING YOUR WHACKED-OUT EX?
I'VE DONE THE HEAVY LIFTING. YOU'RE AN EXPERT XENOBIOLOGIST. I'M SURE YOU CAN FILL IN THE BLANKS.
FILL THIS IN! I CAN'T BELIEVE I WENT INTO BUSINESS WITH SUCH A JERK!
WHIRR KLIK-IK-- DOCTOR, THE WRAITH IS COMING TO.
UNHH...
SHALL I OFFER HER A TASTY BEVERAGE?
NOT NOW, ROBOT! JUST KEEP HER CONTAINED! I'M BUSY!
ALL RIGHT, OSBORN, MY MASK IS ON. NOW WHAT'S THIS ABOUT, YOU NATTERING LUNATIC?
I'LL ADMIT IT, OTTO. YOU GOT UNDER MY SKIN. YOU TOOK SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL FROM ME...
...KILLING SPIDER-MAN. IT HURT. THAT YOU, HIS NUMBER TWO ENEMY, GOT TO BE THE ONE.
I THOUGHT I COULD GET PAST IT IF I MADE YOU MY LACKEY...MY FOOL. BUT YOU HAD TO BE STUBBORN.
YOU LEFT ME NO CHOICE, REALLY. YOU TOOK THAT TRIUMPH FROM ME, SO I'M GOING TO TAKE EVERYTHING AWAY FROM YOU.
WHAT?!
I HAVE TO DESTROY YOU NOW, COMPLETELY AND UTTERLY. WIPE YOU OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH AND THE PAGES OF HISTORY.
LOOK CLOSELY, OTTO, AT ALL THE PRETTY PICTURES I'M PUTTING IN YOUR GOGGLES.

WHY, SEE HERE, IF IT ISN'T CHEZ OCTAVIUS. THE HOUSE WHERE YOU GREW UP.

OH! THAT'S THE LAB, WHERE YOU HAD YOUR LITTLE OCTOPUS-RELATED ACCIDENT.

US ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTER

AND HERE'S THE *BONEYARD*...

...WHERE THE POLICE HAVE ALL OF DOC OCK'S GREATEST INVENTIONS UNDER LOCK AND KEY.

LOOK! THE BOTTLING PLANT WHERE YOU, AS SPIDER-MAN...

...SAVED ALL THOSE PEOPLE FROM GETTING BLOWN UP. AND GUESS WHAT? THEY'RE ALL PULLING A LATE NIGHT SHIFT.

MOCHA COLA

AND WHAT'S THIS? THE *H.E.A.R.T. CLINIC*, WHERE YOU'VE DEDICATED SO MUCH TIME TO HELPING THE SICK.

H.E.A.R.T. CLINIC Hospital for Emergency Aid and Recuperative Therapy

AN IMPRESSIVE BODY OF WORK, OTTO. A LEGACY ANY MAN WOULD BE PROUD OF.

HA HA HA

I'LL--
I'LL KILL YOU...
REALLY? YOU AND WHAT ARMY? BECAUSE I BLEW THEM UP, TOO! HA!
OH, ME. CHIN UP, OTTO. THE LESSON'S NOT OVER YET.
I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU JUST HOW MUCH YOU STILL HAVE LEFT TO LOSE.
"LESSON?" "TEACH?" YOU... YOU EMPHASIZED THOSE WORDS.
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT, MADMAN?
JUST THAT PROFESSOR GOBLIN IS HOLDING CLASS...AT YOUR ALMA MATER, EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY!
AND I'VE GOT ONE OF YOUR CLASSMATES WITH ME. SOMEONE VERY DEAR TO YOU, OTTO. SO DON'T BE TARDY.
BUT THIS LECTURE IS FULL. BRING ANY UNINVITED GUESTS, AAAND...
AND WHAT?
BOOM.
A TRAP. TO FORCE MY HAND... AND MAKE ME PLAY INTO HIS. I'M A FOOL IF I DO AS HE SAYS. BUT CAN I EVEN TAKE THE CHANCE THAT HE TRULY HAS ANNA MARIA?
BLAST IT. I--I'VE NEVER BEEN ON THIS SIDE OF THE EQUATION BEFORE.
WHAT WOULD PARKER DO?

The Mindscape.

WHERE WHAT'S LEFT OF PETER PARKER'S IDENTITY HAS MERGED WITH THAT OF OTTO OCTAVIUS.

HATE.

I HATE THIS "SPIDER-MAN" AS I'VE NEVER LOATHED ANOTHER LIVING BEING.

IN OUR FIRST MEETING, HE BEATS ME. TAUNTS ME. EMASCULATES ME. LIKE ALL THE TORMENTORS I'VE KNOWN MY ENTIRE LIFE, COMBINED INTO *ONE MAN.*

AND HE *NEVER STOPS.*

EVERYTHING I BUILD, HE TEARS DOWN. WHAT I CREATE, HE DESTROYS. JESTING LIKE A LOON ALL THE WHILE.

BECAUSE OF HIM, MY PLANS COME TO NAUGHT. MY BREAKTHROUGHS NEVER HAPPEN. THE GREATNESS I AM MEANT TO ACHIEVE BECOMES HUMILIATION AND SCORN. HE *DESTROYS MY LIFE.*

AND ULTIMATELY, THROUGH PHYSICAL BEATING AFTER BEATING...ENDS IT.

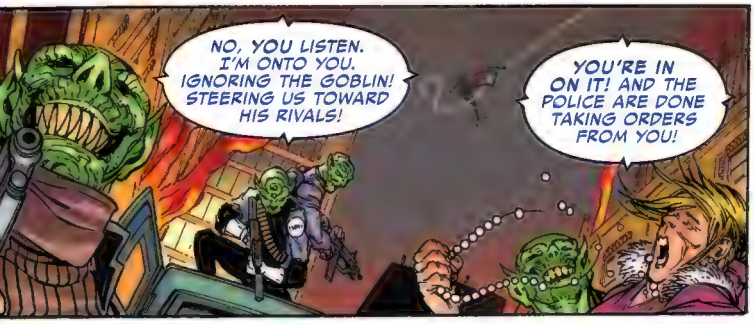
I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, OTTO...BUT YOUR CONDITION IS DEGENERATIVE.

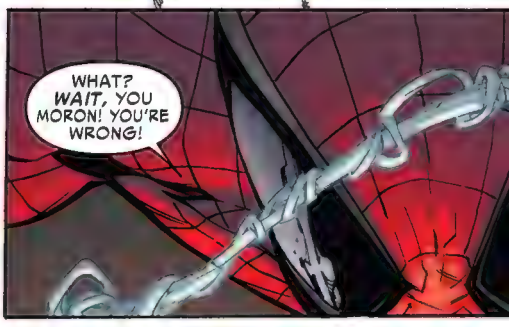
YOU'RE LOOKING AT A YEAR--EIGHTEEN MONTHS AT THE MOST--UNTIL...

I-I WILL LEAVE THIS WORLD WITH *NOTHING* TO SHOW FOR IT.

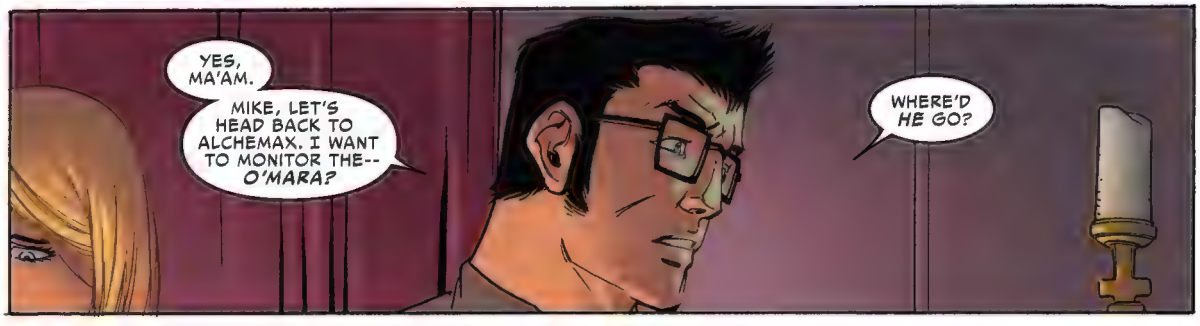
AND *ALL* BECAUSE OF THAT *INFERNAL SPIDER-MAN!*

The Lower East Side.
PHONE! CALL ANNA! PICK UP!
MURDERER! HE'S GOING TO KILL HER! HE'S--
SPIDER-MAN! HELP!
I HAVE NO TIME FOR YOU, IDIOTS! OUT OF MY WAY!
SHE'S NOT THERE! SECURE LINE: CALL POLICE CHIEF PRATCHETT.
PRATCHETT? LISTEN CAREFULLY. I'M SENDING COORDINATES OF GOBLIN ACTIVITY. A MUGGING. AND THEN YOU HAVE TO HELP ME LOCATE--
NEW YORK STARK EXPO
OPEN 24/7


NO, YOU LISTEN. I'M ONTO YOU. IGNORING THE GOBLIN! STEERING US TOWARD HIS RIVALS!
YOU'RE IN ON IT! AND THE POLICE ARE DONE TAKING ORDERS FROM YOU!


WHAT? WAIT, YOU MORON! YOU'RE WRONG!

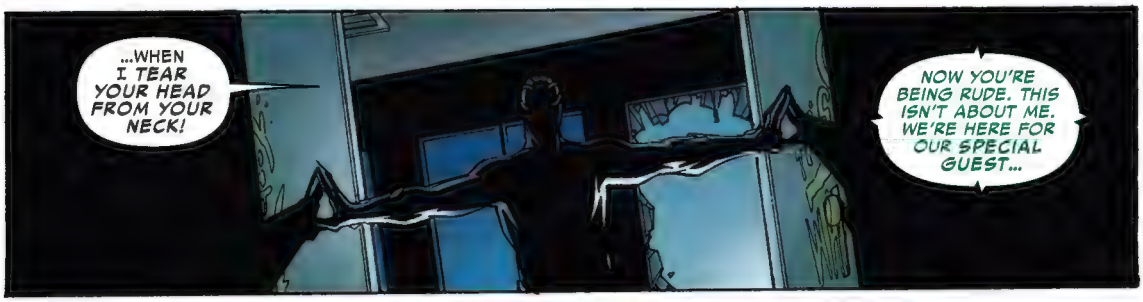
ASK THE MAYOR, HE'LL BACK ME! JUST ASK--
MAYOR JAMESON? WHAT NOW?
DEPLOY THE SPIDER-SLAYERS TO THE LOCATION HE SENT. THEN FAN OUT FROM THERE. WE'VE GOT HIM!
VERY WELL, JAMESON. YOU KNOW THE RISKS. STONE, O'MARA, ACTIVATE THE SLAYER PROGRAM.


YES, MA'AM.
MIKE, LET'S HEAD BACK TO ALCHEMAX. I WANT TO MONITOR THE-- O'MARA?
WHERE'D HE GO?

Empire State University.
AT LAST. NO MORE DISTRACTIONS. TRAP OR NOT...
JAMESON MEMORIAL

...IT ENDS HERE!
KRSHH
OH, I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU. RUSHING IN...NO PLANNING, NO PREP, NO HENCHMEN? THAT'S NOT YOU, OTTO. THAT'S HIM.

YOU'LL SEE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US SOON ENOUGH, DOLT...
THIS WAY


...WHEN I TEAR YOUR HEAD FROM YOUR NECK!
NOW YOU'RE BEING RUDE. THIS ISN'T ABOUT ME. WE'RE HERE FOR OUR SPECIAL GUEST...

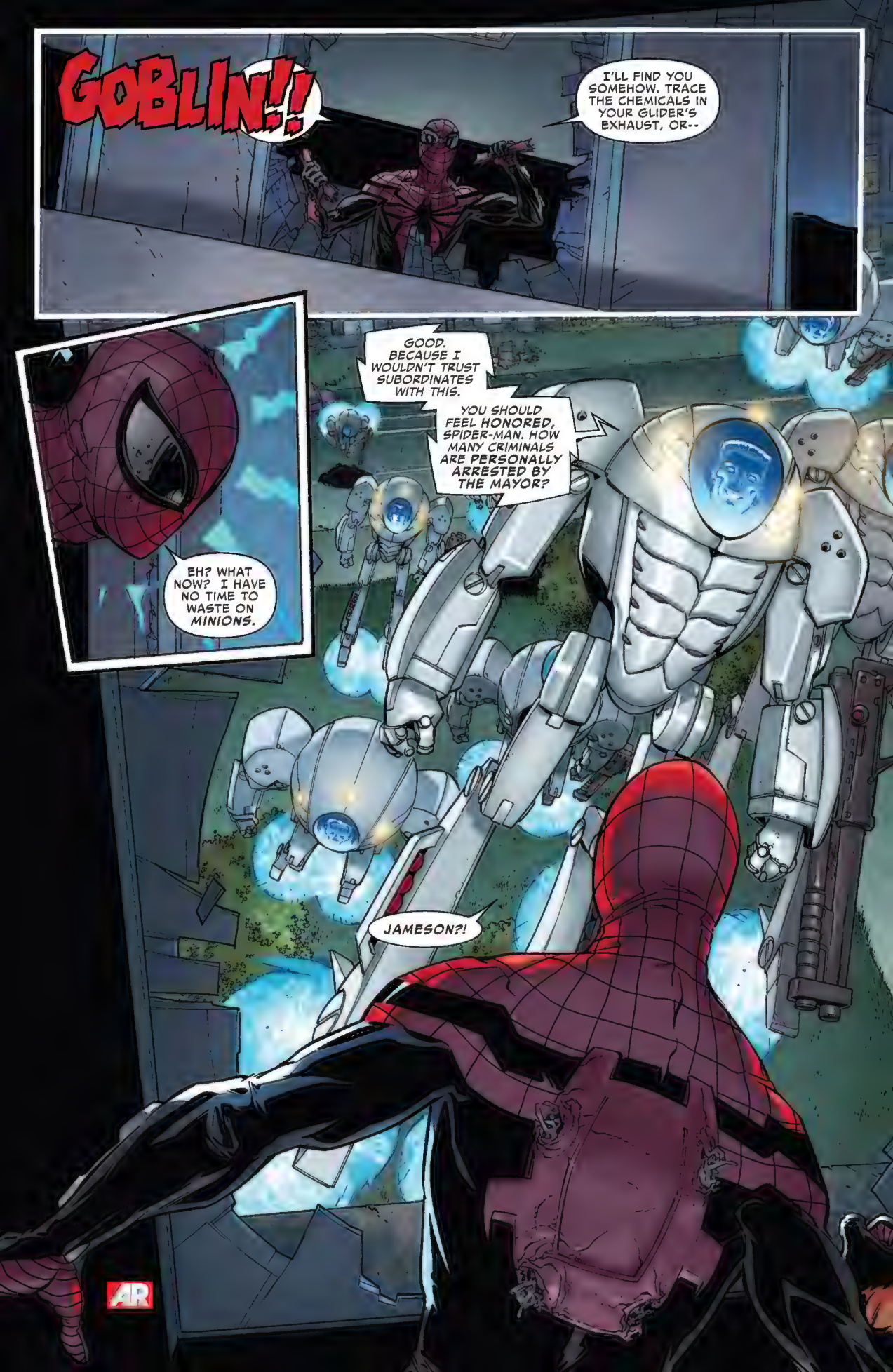
TA-DA!
LAMAZE?
IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE? YOUR HOSTAGE IS DON LAMAZE? HA!

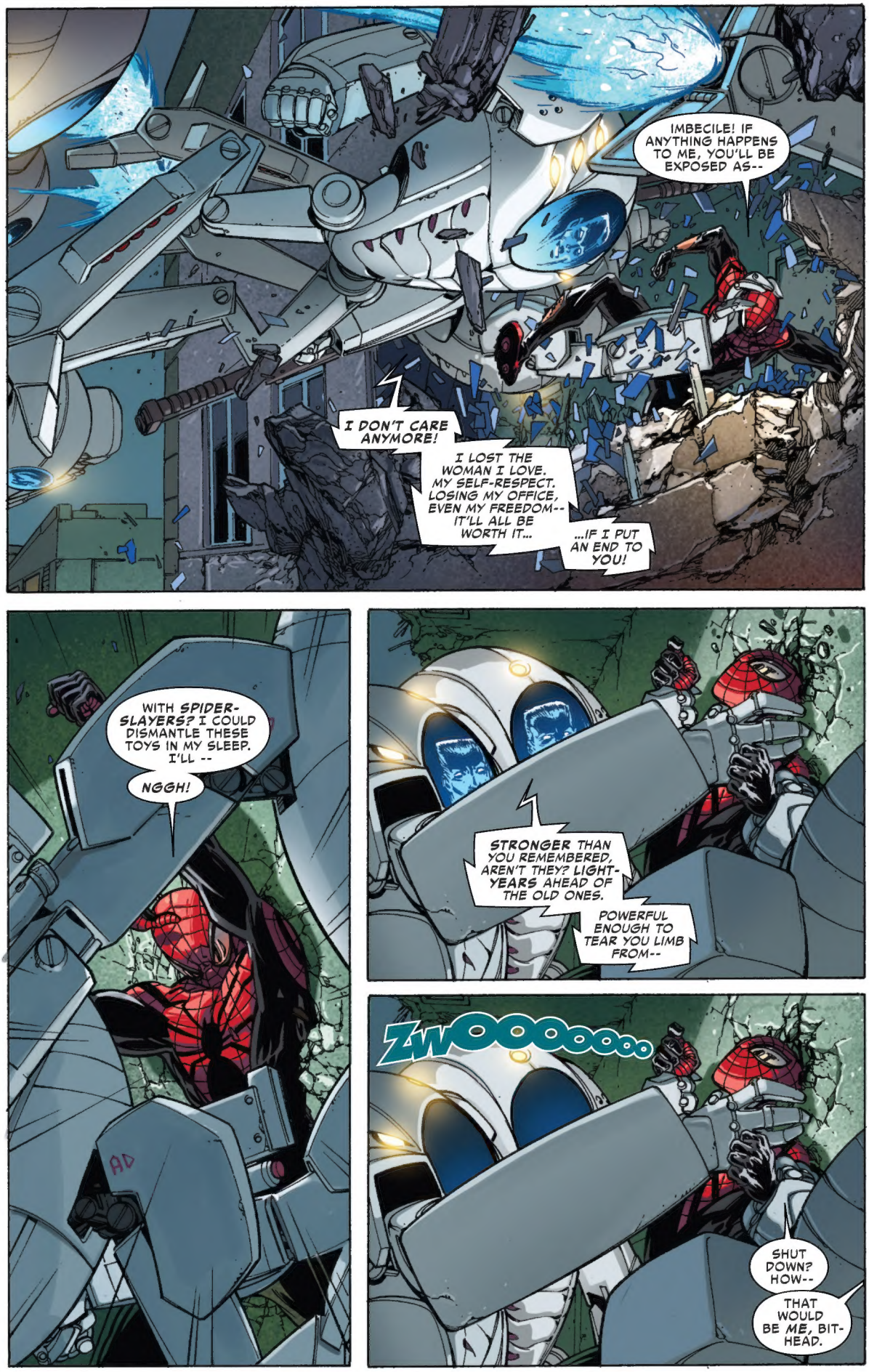
WELL, THAT'S DISAPPOINTING. I DID MY HOMEWORK. THIS OVERSTUFFED SHIRT IS THE CLOSEST THING OTTO OCTAVIUS EVER HAD TO A FRIEND.
I SAW FOOTAGE OF YOU PRACTICALLY KILLING YOURSELF TO SAVE HIM AND THAT MIDGET. AND NOW, IT'S LIKE YOU DON'T EVEN CARE.
OSBORN! CEASE YOUR INCESSANT--
BUT I FORGET, YOU'RE NOT THE LAST GUY. HE COULD TURN A HANGNAIL INTO AN EPIC TRAGEDY. WITH YOU, I HAVE TO WORK A LITTLE HARDER.
CONSIDER THIS A REHEARSAL. I'LL BE BACK WHEN I'VE FOUND SOMEONE WHO CAN REALLY RAISE THE STAKES FOR OUR GRAND FINALE.
SHNGG
YOU'LL GO NOWHERE--
--BUT THE GRAVE!
HA.
AND OUT POP THE ARMS. SO PREDICTABLE.
SNAP

THANK YOU. THIS WON'T BE A TOTAL LETDOWN AFTER ALL. HAHAHAHAHA!
SHK
SHK
AGH!
I WAS SAVING THAT FOR THE CLIMAX, BUT WHY WAIT? I CAN ALWAYS COME UP WITH SOMETHING ELSE.
I'M NOT A ONE-TRICK PONY LIKE YOU.
SHK
I MEAN, REALLY... METAL ARMS AGAIN? AND BASED ON YOUR OLD DESIGNS? SO PATHETICALLY EASY TO HIJACK, FOR A REAL GENIUS.
SEE YOU FOR THE FINAL ACT. IF YOU SURVIVE THIS ONE, OF COURSE. HAHAHA!
L-LAMAZE, RUN! THEY'RE STRIKING TO KILL!
BLAST! NEARLY TOOK MY HEAD OFF!
KRNCH

RRRNKK
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, FOOL!
MOVE!
SHNG
MMG!
SHKK

YOU... SAVED ME. W-WHY?
WHAT COULD POSSIBLY POSSESS YOU TO--
Y-YOU.
W-WHEN YOU SAVED ME AND MS. MARCONI.
SHE NEEDED HELP...BUT I RAN. EVER SINCE, ALL I WANTED...WAS A CHANCE TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.
MY WHOLE LIFE...I'VE BEEN NOTHING BUT A FAT, POMPOUS ASS. BUT YOU...
...SHOWED ME WHAT IT MEANS...TO BE A HERO. TH-THANK YOU, SPIDER--


GOBLIN!!
I'LL FIND YOU SOMEHOW. TRACE THE CHEMICALS IN YOUR GLIDER'S EXHAUST, OR--
EH? WHAT NOW? I HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE ON MINIONS.
GOOD. BECAUSE I WOULDN'T TRUST SUBORDINATES WITH THIS.
YOU SHOULD FEEL HONORED, SPIDER-MAN. HOW MANY CRIMINALS ARE PERSONALLY ARRESTED BY THE MAYOR?
JAMESON?!


IMBECILE! IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME, YOU'LL BE EXPOSED AS--
I DON'T CARE ANYMORE!
I LOST THE WOMAN I LOVE. MY SELF-RESPECT. LOSING MY OFFICE, EVEN MY FREEDOM-- IT'LL ALL BE WORTH IT...
...IF I PUT AN END TO YOU!
WITH SPIDER-SLAYERS? I COULD DISMANTLE THESE TOYS IN MY SLEEP. I'LL --
NGGH!
STRONGER THAN YOU REMEMBERED, AREN'T THEY? LIGHT-YEARS AHEAD OF THE OLD ONES.
POWERFUL ENOUGH TO TEAR YOU LIMB FROM--
ZWOOOOOOOO
SHUT DOWN? HOW--
THAT WOULD BE ME, BIT-HEAD.

I REMEMBER YOU. THE SPIDER-MAN OF 2099. WHY ARE YOU STILL IN THIS TIMELINE?
BE GLAD I AM. THOSE THINGS WOULD'VE SLAGGED YOU IF I HADN'T SHUT 'EM OFF. LET'S JUST SAY I HAVE AN IN.
NAMELY, AS "MICHAEL O'MARA," SPIDEY 2099 HELPED BUILD THEM! -EDIFYIN' ELLIE
WELL DONE. IF YOU CAN CONTROL THEM, WE'LL PURSUE OSBORN TOGETHER... WITH A ROBOT ARMY BACKING US. NOW *RELEASE* ME.
MAYBE LATER. I'VE GOT SOME *QUESTIONS* FIRST.
AND YOU'RE NOT GOING *ANYWHERE* UNTIL YOU ANSWER THEM.
YOU FOOL, WE DON'T HAVE *TIME* FOR THIS!
ACTUALLY, I'VE GOT *DECADES*. I DON'T BELONG HERE... AND I'M NOT SURE *YOU* DO, EITHER.
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH HISTORY... WITH *YOU*. YOU'RE ACTING *TOTALLY DIFFERENT* FROM THE GUY YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE.
AND UNTIL YOU TELL ME WHAT THE SHOCK IS GOING ON, *NOBODY MOVES!*

VREET
IF YOU THINK REACTIVATING THEM WILL INTIMIDATE ME--
N-NO! I'M NOT DOING THIS! HOW IS JAMESON--
BRAAH
JAMESON? YOU POOR SAPS.
SURELY YOU'VE FIGURED OUT BY NOW THAT NORMAN OSBORN RUNS THIS CITY...
...AND EVERYTHING IN IT.
HAHAHAHAHA!
To be continued!

'SUP SPIDER-MAN

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Send e-mail to SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM (please mark as OKAY TO PRINT)

Hey there, web-heads, it's Stephen Wack--

Wait a minute, no it's not. Hi there Spidey-fans, my name is Nick Lowe and I'm the new Spider-Man Editor up here at Marvel. As you may have heard by now, Steve made a big move out to Los Angeles to work in Marvel Animation. As I trust you folks know, Steve is an incredibly creative guy and a heck of an editor, so it's a huge loss for Marvel Publishing but a huge gain for Marvel Animation. And so, while I miss my friend, I've got big shoes to fill. Seriously, he only wears clown shoes, so I've got to find some way to fill them up so I don't trip walking around the office.

I come to Spider-Man by way of the X-Men office where I've been Senior Editor for the last three years and in various other X-Men editorial positions for more than ten! And while this is my first time working on the Marvel U Spider-Man, I spent a couple years working on ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN back in the day (you can find Bendis strangling me in the recap page of ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN #67).

ANYWAY, it's hard to express the amount of excitement I've got for Spider-Man and how pumped I am to be joining this incredible team. I'm a huge fan of Dan, Steve, Humberto, Cammo, Stegman, Gage and the oodles of amazing creative people who've worked their butts off to make SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN (and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN before that) the best comic on the market.

Yikes, I sure like to talk, huh? Your turn!

Dear, Spider-office

How's it going guys? This is my second letter to you guys talking about SUPERIOR and I just want you to know it has become my favorite series out of the many that I follow. Your most recent issue talked about the end of the series (which I learned about before) I just wanted you guys to know I will severely miss the adventures of Otto Octavius. What he brought to the comic-verse was unique and interesting and it's sad to see it go. I hope that it was an artistic choice to bring Peter back and not a corporate one, because it seems like the series had a pretty dedicated fan base but I guess that's just how things go. Anyway I loved the ride, thanks for taking me on it for as long as you did. I just wish it could have been longer.

Sincerely, Nathan Simon

Hi Nathan! I can assure you that the decision to change back from Ock to Peter was a creative one made by Dan and Steve and others. Heck, they didn't plan on SUPERIOR going so long, but they found so much story they had to tell that it needed more issues!

Steve,

Sorry for being a bit behind in my correspondence but for the first time ever I feel compelled to write in response to the letters page in issue #18 of SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN. To dismiss Frank Bergdoll's letter where he offered his reflections on how the recent direction of the comic has impacted on him as a long time reader with "if you aren't enjoying the series, I just think it's time to move on", was an insult and dismissive. It shows little regard for someone who's invested a lifetime of support. Have those types now become obsolete? I, like him, relate to the character. It's not about simply being entertained or not. I, along with Frank have a vested interest in the development of the character. To dismiss or destroy who Spider-Man represents to us is concerning. Frank at least showed a compassion for you and the writers that was lacking in your response. The reason we became hooked on the comic has nothing to do with you. The reason we stay has less to do with you than the history we share with the comic. You are a custodian of the comic, not someone who should rate "shocking" and "making readers go nuts" as the main objective. Take care of your long-term readers. You'll be one one day. Let's hope you'll not be as irrelevant as he has become. O.K. I feel better now. Thanks for reading.

Greg Packham
Victoria,
Australia

Hi there, Greg. I can assure that Steve didn't intend to insult Frank Bergdoll. I can do that because I've heard Steve insult people and he does it way more colorfully than that. If anything, I think Steve was trying to let Frank off the hook in case he was just hurting himself by reading something he didn't like. We love our long-time readers, but I will say that you should understand that our main objective as a business is to make money. That is just the truth. Now, as caretakers and fans of the characters and creative people we also want to make the best comics possible and tell the best stories that we can. And when we can both shock readers and tell good stories, we go for it!

Let me just say, guys, I've absolutely loved everything about SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN. Just like everybody else, I thought that it would be a bad idea but as the series continued I couldn't force myself to keep hating it. It's amazing/superior (take your pick) how you guys manage it, and I'm actually gonna miss Otto as Spidey. Just a few questions, though:

1) When AMAZING SPIDER-MAN relaunches, will it continue as 701 or start afresh as AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 1?

2) Will Peter only have the memories accessed by Doc? (URGENT!!!)

3) And is this the last we see of Doc in any form, and if not will he continue to be a "hero"?

Thanks for the superior issues,
Abdullah Shah

Thanks for the letter, Abdullah. To answer your questions:

1) AMAZING SPIDER-MAN will launch with a #1 in April. Sorry for fans of three-digit numbers out there (or Trey-Dig-Diggers, as they like to be called).

2) You're going to have to wait and see which memories of his or Ock's that Peter keeps (or Otto's love of Justin Bieber).

3) Doc's fate is going to be another thing you're just going to have to wait and see!

SOMEBODY CALL A PROCTOLOGIST! Humberto Ramos is drawing his butt off! Monster's goblin garb is fierce. (I love the hood.) Venom, of the Octavius variety, is visually stunning, as well. Many thanks for the eye candy!

Excelsior,
Rick Yankosky

PS... The story's pretty good too, Slott. ;)

Rick, this letter may be my favorite ever. What an opening! Ain't Humberto fantastic? He's also a great dancer. And don't forget how great Giuseppe is!

That's all the time and space we have, but thank you for reading and I look forward to hearing what you all think of THIS incredible issue.

–Nick